



Complete Summary

TITLE

Low birth weight: rate of infants with low birth weight.

SOURCE(S)

AHRQ quality indicators. Guide to prevention quality indicators: hospital admission for ambulatory care sensitive conditions [version 2.1, revision 4]. Rockville (MD): Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ); 2004 Nov 24. 115 p.(AHRQ Pub; no. 02-R0203). [50 references]

Measure Domain

PRIMARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Access

The validity of measures depends on how they are built. By examining the key building blocks of a measure, you can assess its validity for your purpose. For more information, visit the [Measure Validity](#) page.

SECONDARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Outcome

Brief Abstract

DESCRIPTION

This measure is used to assess the number of low birth weight infants per 100 births within Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) or county.

As a Prevention Quality Indicator (PQI), low birth weight is not a measure of hospital quality, but rather one measure of outpatient and other health care. This indicator could have substantial bias that would require additional risk adjustment from birth records or clinical data.

RATIONALE

Prevention is an important role for all health care providers. Providers can help individuals stay healthy by preventing disease, and they can prevent complications of existing disease by helping patients live with their illnesses. To fulfill this role, however, providers need data on the impact of their services and

the opportunity to compare these data over time or across communities. Local, State, and Federal policymakers also need these tools and data to identify potential access or quality-of-care problems related to prevention, to plan specific interventions, and to evaluate how well these interventions meet the goals of preventing illness and disability.

While these indicators use hospital inpatient data, their focus is an outpatient health care. Except in the case of patients who are readmitted soon after discharge from a hospital, the quality of inpatient care is unlikely to be a significant determinant of admission rates for ambulatory care sensitive conditions. Rather, the Patient Quality Indicators (PQIs) assess the quality of the health care system as a whole, and especially the quality of ambulatory care, in preventing medical complications. As a result, these measures are likely to be of the greatest value when calculated at the population level and when used by public health groups, State data organizations, and other organizations concerned with the health of populations.

These indicators serve as a screening tool rather than as definitive measures of quality problems. They can provide initial information about potential problems in the community that may require further, more in-depth analysis.

Infants may be low birth weight because of inadequate interuterine growth or premature birth. Risk factors include sociodemographic and behavioral characteristics, such as low income and tobacco use during pregnancy.

Proper preventive care may reduce incidence of low birth weight, and lower rates represent better quality care.

PRIMARY CLINICAL COMPONENT

Low birth weight rate

DENOMINATOR DESCRIPTION

All births (discharges in Major Diagnostic Category [MDC] 15, newborns and other neonates) in Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) or county

NUMERATOR DESCRIPTION

The number of births with International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) diagnosis codes for birth weight less than 2500 grams in any field. Patients transferring from another institution are excluded.

Evidence Supporting the Measure

EVIDENCE SUPPORTING THE CRITERION OF QUALITY

- One or more research studies published in a National Library of Medicine (NLM) indexed, peer-reviewed journal

Evidence Supporting Need for the Measure

NEED FOR THE MEASURE

Variation in quality for the performance measured

EVIDENCE SUPPORTING NEED FOR THE MEASURE

AHRQ quality indicators. Guide to prevention quality indicators: hospital admission for ambulatory care sensitive conditions [version 2.1, revision 4]. Rockville (MD): Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ); 2004 Nov 24. 115 p.(AHRQ Pub; no. 02-R0203). [50 references]

State of Use of the Measure

STATE OF USE

Current routine use

CURRENT USE

Internal quality improvement
Quality of care research

Application of Measure in its Current Use

CARE SETTING

Ambulatory Care
Community Health Care

PROFESSIONALS RESPONSIBLE FOR HEALTH CARE

Advanced Practice Nurses
Physician Assistants
Physicians

LOWEST LEVEL OF HEALTH CARE DELIVERY ADDRESSED

Counties or Cities

TARGET POPULATION AGE

Newborns/neonates

TARGET POPULATION GENDER

Either male or female

STRATIFICATION BY VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Unspecified

Characteristics of the Primary Clinical Component

INCIDENCE/PREVALENCE

Rate (2002): 5.9 per 100 eligible births.

EVIDENCE FOR INCIDENCE/PREVALENCE

AHRQ quality indicators. Guide to prevention quality indicators: hospital admission for ambulatory care sensitive conditions [version 2.1, revision 4]. Rockville (MD): Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ); 2004 Nov 24. 115 p.(AHRQ Pub; no. 02-R0203). [50 references]

ASSOCIATION WITH VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Socioeconomic measures such as parental education and income have been shown to be negatively associated with rates of low birth weight infants. Demographic factors such as age and race also appear important, and may be correlated with socioeconomic factors. Mothers under 17 years and over 35 years are at higher risk of having low birth weight infants. One study of all California singleton births in 1992 found that after risk adjustment, having a black mother remained a significant risk factor.

EVIDENCE FOR ASSOCIATION WITH VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

AHRQ quality indicators. Guide to prevention quality indicators: hospital admission for ambulatory care sensitive conditions [version 2.1, revision 4]. Rockville (MD): Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ); 2004 Nov 24. 115 p.(AHRQ Pub; no. 02-R0203). [50 references]

BURDEN OF ILLNESS

Unspecified

UTILIZATION

Unspecified

COSTS

Unspecified

Institute of Medicine National Healthcare Quality Report Categories

IOM CARE NEED

Staying Healthy

IOM DOMAIN

Effectiveness
Timeliness

Data Collection for the Measure

CASE FINDING

Both users and nonusers of care

DESCRIPTION OF CASE FINDING

All births (discharges in Major Diagnostic Category [MDC] 15, newborns and other neonates) in Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) or county

DENOMINATOR SAMPLING FRAME

Patients associated with provider

DENOMINATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS

Inclusions

All births (discharges in Major Diagnostic Category [MDC] 15, newborns and other neonates) in Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) or county

Exclusions

Unspecified

DENOMINATOR (INDEX) EVENT

Clinical Condition

Institutionalization

Patient Characteristic

DENOMINATOR TIME WINDOW

Time window is a single point in time

NUMERATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS

Inclusions

The number of births with International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) diagnosis codes* for birth weight less than 2500 grams in any field

*Refer to Appendix A of the original measure documentation for ICD-9-CM codes.

Exclusions

Patients transferring from another institution are excluded.

NUMERATOR TIME WINDOW

Encounter or point in time

DATA SOURCE

Administrative data

LEVEL OF DETERMINATION OF QUALITY

Not Individual Case

OUTCOME TYPE

Proxy for Outcome

PRE-EXISTING INSTRUMENT USED

Unspecified

Computation of the Measure

SCORING

Rate

INTERPRETATION OF SCORE

Better quality is associated with a lower score

ALLOWANCE FOR PATIENT FACTORS

Analysis by subgroup (stratification on patient factors, geographic factors, etc.)

DESCRIPTION OF ALLOWANCE FOR PATIENT FACTORS

Observed (raw) rates may be stratified by areas (Metropolitan Statistical Areas or counties), age groups, race/ethnicity categories, and sex.

STANDARD OF COMPARISON

External comparison at a point in time

External comparison of time trends

Internal time comparison

Prescriptive standard

PRESCRIPTIVE STANDARD

Healthy People 2010 has set a goal of reducing the percentage of low birth weight infants to 0.9%.

EVIDENCE FOR PRESCRIPTIVE STANDARD

AHRQ quality indicators. Guide to prevention quality indicators: hospital admission for ambulatory care sensitive conditions [version 2.1, revision 4]. Rockville (MD): Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ); 2004 Nov 24. 115 p. (AHRQ Pub; no. 02-R0203). [50 references]

Evaluation of Measure Properties

EXTENT OF MEASURE TESTING

Each potential quality indicator was evaluated against the following six criteria, which were considered essential for determining the reliability and validity of a quality indicator: face validity, precision, minimum bias, construct validity, fosters real quality improvement, and application. The project team searched Medline for articles relating to each of these six areas of evaluation. Additionally, extensive empirical testing of all potential indicators was conducted using the 1995-97 Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) State Inpatient Databases (SID) and Nationwide Inpatient Sample (NIS) to determine precision, bias, and construct validity. Table 1 in the original measure documentation summarizes the results of the literature review and empirical evaluations on the Prevention Quality Indicators. Refer to the original measure documentation for details.

EVIDENCE FOR RELIABILITY/VALIDITY TESTING

AHRQ quality indicators. Guide to prevention quality indicators: hospital admission for ambulatory care sensitive conditions [version 2.1, revision 4]. Rockville (MD): Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ); 2004 Nov 24. 115 p. (AHRQ Pub; no. 02-R0203). [50 references]

Identifying Information

ORIGINAL TITLE

Low birth weight rate (PQI 9).

MEASURE COLLECTION

[Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality \(AHRQ\) Quality Indicators](#)

MEASURE SET NAME

[Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality \(AHRQ\) Prevention Quality Indicators](#)

DEVELOPER

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

ADAPTATION

This indicator was previously a Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project Quality Indicator (HCUP QI).

PARENT MEASURE

Low birth weight (Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality)

RELEASE DATE

2001 Oct

REVISION DATE

2004 Nov

MEASURE STATUS

Please note: This measure has been updated. The National Quality Measures Clearinghouse is working to update this summary.

SOURCE(S)

AHRQ quality indicators. Guide to prevention quality indicators: hospital admission for ambulatory care sensitive conditions [version 2.1, revision 4]. Rockville (MD): Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ); 2004 Nov 24. 115 p.(AHRQ Pub; no. 02-R0203). [50 references]

MEASURE AVAILABILITY

The individual measure, "Low Birth Weight Rate (PQI 9)," is published in "AHRQ Quality Indicators. Guide to Prevention Quality Indicators: Hospital Admission for Ambulatory Sensitive Conditions." This document is available in [Portable Document Format \(PDF\)](#) and a [zipped Word\(R\) file](#) from the [Quality Indicators](#) page at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Web site.

For more information, please contact the QI Support Team at support@qualityindicators.ahrq.gov.

COMPANION DOCUMENTS

The following are available:

- AHRQ quality indicators. Prevention quality indicators: software documentation [version 2.1, revision 4] - SAS. Rockville (MD): Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ); 2004 Nov 24. 36 p. (AHRQ Pub; no.

- 02-R0202). This document is available from the [Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality \(AHRQ\) Web site](#).
- AHRQ quality indicators. Prevention quality indicators: software documentation [version 2.1, revision 4] - SPSS. Rockville (MD): Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ); 2004 Nov 24. 32 p. (AHRQ Pub; no. 02-R0207). This document is available from the [AHRQ Web site](#).
 - Remus D, Fraser I. Guidance for using the AHRQ quality indicators for hospital-level public reporting or payment. Rockville (MD): Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; 2004 Aug. 24 p. This document is available from the [AHRQ Web site](#).
 - HCUPnet, Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project. [internet]. Rockville (MD): Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ); 2004 [Various pagings]. HCUPnet is available from the [AHRQ Web site](#).
 - UCSF-Stanford Evidence-based Practice Center. Davies GM, Geppert J, McClellan M, et al. Refinement of the HCUP quality indicators. Rockville (MD): Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ); 2001 May. (Technical review; no. 4). This document is available from the [AHRQ Web site](#).

NQMC STATUS

This NQMC summary was completed by ECRI on December 19, 2002. The information was verified by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality on January 9, 2003. This NQMC summary was updated by ECRI on April 6, 2004 and again on February 18, 2005. The information was verified by the measure developer on April 22, 2005.

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Date Modified: 5/8/2006

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